

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A ~~An access selection system allowing for a user terminal, said system providing in a network to simultaneously simultaneous~~ access a plurality of radio based access networks of diverse access technologies, said radio access networks being adapted for connection to a common backbone network, the system comprising:

a plurality of access selection adapters, each one being a network entity provided separate from the user terminal, and each one associated with a respective radio access network, and each ~~access selection adapter one~~ structured for receiving access dependent information from its ~~respective associated~~ access network and for mapping said radio access dependent information to access technology independent status information; and

an access selector being a network entity provided separate from the user terminal, and structured to interact with applications resident in the user terminal and to interact with each access ~~selection~~ adapter for selection of ~~an a~~ radio access network based on an individual QoS profile ~~representing an access technology independent information~~ associated with each application and on said access technology independent status information.

2. (Currently amended) A-The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selection ~~adapters are~~ adapter is structured to ~~use~~ implement a protocol spanning the access networks, the backbone network and the access selector, ~~thus allowing to enable~~ interoperation between an application and an end terminal connected to the backbone network and ~~making to make~~ the access selection ~~adapter~~ adapters transparent to the application.

3. (Currently amended) A-The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~radio access dependent information is provided by~~ access selection adapter comprises:

~~an access manager in the respective access selection adapter and is signaled between the respective access selection adapter and its corresponding access network on a spanning layer protocol for handling the access to its associated radio access network, and for initiating and setting up a radio bearer; and~~

a translator for receiving as inputs said radio access dependent information and translating the radio access dependent information into QoS parameters.

4. (Currently amended) A-The system in accordance with claim 3, wherein the radio access dependent information comprises any one or more of

the following attributes: signal strength, signal quality, delay, service precedence, reliability, mean throughput and peak throughput, bit error ratio, control load parameters, media description parameters, packet format information, expected delay bound, packet loss ratio, bit error rate (BER), packet handling priority, packet loss ratio (PLR), and combinations thereof.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the radio access dependent information further comprises one or both of cost and/or available bandwidth.

6. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The system in accordance with claim 4, wherein ~~at least one~~ the access selection adapter further comprises:

a QoS controller for ~~generating~~ receiving the QoS parameters from the translator and mapping the QoS parameters to the access technology independent status information ~~by interacting with a corresponding application;~~

~~an access manager for handling access to its associated radio access network, and for initiating and setting up a radio bearer therein; and~~

~~a translator for receiving as inputs said radio access dependent information access and map them to said access technology independent information (wireless hints).~~

7. (Currently amended) A-The system in accordance with claim 2, wherein the protocol spanning the backbone network, the access networks, the access selection adaptors, the access selector, and the applications ~~are~~is one or both of IPv4 or-and IPv6 protocol suites.

8. (Currently amended) A-The system in accordance with claim 1, ~~further~~ wherein the user terminal comprises a database containing configuration data for the applications.

9. (Currently amended) A-The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selector ~~is structured~~comprises means to perform~~execute~~ link independent QoS related software processes for access procedures.

10. (Currently amended) A-The system in accordance with claim 9, wherein said QoS related software processes comprise any one or more of an NSIS (Next Step In IP Signaling) process for radio access independent QoS signaling, a layer 2-link (L2-LS) status process for radio access independent link status information and acquisition, and an resource handling (RH) process for radio access independent resource handling.

11. (Currently amended) A-The system in accordance with claim 10, wherein said QoS related software processes further comprise one or both of a

radio access independent FHO (Fast Handover) process for handling of mobility, and a CARD (Candidate Access Router) process for acquisition of candidate access routers.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selector is connected to the backbone network, and is connected to the access networks.

14. (Currently amended) A method of providing simultaneous access to a plurality of radio based access networks from a moving system that comprises a user terminal with a plurality of diverse applications, the method comprising:

the user terminal signaling a QoS profile representing an access technology independent information, comprising QoS parameter values, which an application requires, to an access selector being a network entity provided separate from the user terminal, at a start of said application, wherein the access selector is an entity separate from the user terminal;

signaling from each available radio access network via a corresponding individual access selection adapter, which is a network entity provided separate from the user terminal and which is associated with said available

access network, to the an access selector ~~radio access dependent information~~
~~and an access technology independent~~ status information about that access
network's resources;

the access selector identifying a radio access network to be used for the
application by executing an access selection algorithm which identifies the
radio access network selection based on the QoS parameters signaled in the
QoS profile and the access technology independent status information of the
available radio access networks ~~identifies the radio access network~~ received
from the corresponding access selection adapters;

the access selector communicating the radio access network selection to
the user terminal; and

the user terminal instructing the access ~~adapter~~ selection adapter of the
selected radio access network to set up a radio bearer in its associated radio
access network.

15. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ method in accordance with claim 14,
wherein the radio access dependent information and the status information are
signaled from the access ~~adapters~~ selection adapter to the access selector at
time intervals and when there is a change in any of the QoS parameters
associated with the radio access network.

16. (Currently amended) A-The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein a change in a-the QoS parameter is signaled by a layer 2 trigger or an access technology trigger.

17. (Currently amended) A-The method for scheduling access to an access network from a mobile user terminal, the method comprising:

~~signaling an access selector receiving a service request and a QoS profile representing an access technology independent information~~ associated therewith from an application resident on the user terminal ~~to an access selector, the QoS profile specifying requirements of the application and the access selector~~ being a network entity and provided separate from the user terminal;

the access selector comparing the access technology independent information ~~in the QoS parameters contained in the QoS profile with access technology independent~~ status information received from access networks that are available to the user terminal;

the access selector storing the ~~service request QoS profile in the user terminal~~ in case said comparison reveals there is no access network available that fulfils the QoS profile;

the access selector monitoring the status information received from available radio access networks; and

the access selector repeating the comparison step and instructing the application to execute when the comparison indicates an access network is available that fulfils the QoS profile.

18. (New) The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein each access selection adapter is structured to:

translate messages and parameters received from the associated access network into QoS parameters, and

obtain access technology independent status information from the QoS parameters, wherein

the access technology independent status information is a set of QoS related parameters relating to a traffic already existing in the respective access network, and the access technology independent information is a set of QoS related parameters defined as requirements associated with the application in the QoS profile.

19. (New) The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the step of signaling from each available radio access network the access technology independent status information comprises:

the access selection adapter receiving access dependent information from its corresponding radio access network; and

mapping the radio access dependent information to the access technology independent status information.

20. (New) The method in accordance with claim 19, wherein the mapping step comprises:

the access selector adapter translating access technology dependent information into QoS parameters; and

obtaining access technology independent status information from the QoS parameters, wherein

the access technology independent status information is a set of QoS related parameters relating to a traffic already existing in the corresponding radio access network, and the access technology independent information is a set of QoS related parameters defined as requirements associated with the application in the QoS profile.

21. (New) The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the access technology independent status information of a radio access network is a set of QoS related parameters relating to a traffic already existing in the radio access network, and the access technology independent information is a set of QoS related parameters defined as requirements associated with the resident application in the QoS profile.